

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I will call the meeting to order. Meetings are accessible to the public through Comcast Channel 4, City of Kankakee YouTube Channel and the City of Kankakee Website. Because we are under mitigation efforts with the State of Illinois, the meetings will be conducted this month via Zoom. We will move on to prayer by Reverend Alderman Michael Prude of Second Baptist Church and move on to the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderwoman Lewis joined by City Council Members. Moving on to Public Comments Item 4. Due to COVID-19 and social Distancing, the Governor has modified procedures in order to accept public comments, please submit all public comments to publiccomment@citykankakee-il.gov no later than 3:00 P.M. on Monday, September 21st, 2020. We do have a number of comments, please bear with me.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DR. HEATHER OOSTERHOFF: Dear council members, the request before you to approve the conditional use permit for Fortitude's operation of a shelter care facility located at St Paul's Lutheran School at 245 Dearborn Avenue, appears impacted by polarizing opinions and influences that include biases toward individuals experiencing homelessness. Research on these matters substantially indicates that these prejudices are unfounded. For example, as reported by the Washington Post, studies on the impact of homelessness contradict these fears. "Resident perceptions about property values do not jibe with their experiences after they live nearby the sites, they report a little impact on themselves or larger neighborhood well-being." With the matter before you today, I ask that you see this request for what it is, an opportunity to reduce the barriers facing community members who are experiencing hardships. I am asking that you honor the decision made by the majority of the congregation of St Paul's Church regarding how to use their facility and be good stewards to members of the community. Reduce unnecessary barriers by approving a one-year conditional use permit for Fortitude to provide shelter and support services at the location of the former St

Paul school in Kankakee these services will benefit approximately 15 to 20 individuals in need, who will otherwise visibly be out on the streets.

CHRISTOPHER BOHLEN:

Approximately one year ago I attended your city care, your council meeting my concern was the lack of response by the city to shootings which occurred at Lincoln Cultural Center. I asked for action to patrol LCC for more enforcement under the nuisance abatement ordinance Patrol's increase of approximately three weeks in the city has not filed one nuisance abatement action. In the past week we have had two murders and for instance the shots fired, either at the school or within blocks from the school, one incident occurred at the end of the school day with children and staff were outside the building. even with all of this activity there have not been no patrols at the school during the school day. I am told by members of the police administration that they are not enough police officers to provide extra patrols. The job of the schools is to educate, one of the jobs of the city is to provide public safety. If the city cannot afford to provide police patrols to a school building or enforce the proposals at the school district hire the necessary security details to provide public spaces. This is of course after the city sucks tax dollars for multiple TIF districts. If this is Kankakee forward I want to turn around meetings and public statements are not providing safety. We are one stray bullet away from the vast economic development means nothing if you cannot assure that our school children are prepared to safety. While they are entering or leaving school, please consider your priorities.

JENNIFER KRAVATS:

Hello, I would like to voice my support for the homeless shelter site to have a permanent home with St Paul's downtown. When volunteering afforded to the last two winters I've learned that people are sometimes just one situation away from homelessness. I have learned that persons that are homeless are just like us, they value friendship hobbies camaraderie, wonderful, and a safe place to sleep and learn how to play chess with a sheltered guest. I learned that someone used to be a drummer and loves the Eagles, and there's I learned someone's favorite musicians and their dreams for the future. I learned one guest became homeless because of divorce and learning, they still have talents and dreams. I have seen for two volunteers help with transitional housing to get people back on their feet. I have never felt unsafe volunteering at the pet

shelter have one central location will help the guests because sometimes traveling to different sites was not always easy with the bus routes and such. I think this opportunity to have a stable location will help fortitude as an organization, to be able to focus more on transition care and job placement. It is challenging to switch sites every night and deal with the logistics with that. I pray the goal will be a favor tonight and the city council will see the need we have in this community to help our fellow Kankakeans back on their feet. It will only help all of us, I leave you with a scripture, "Whoever shuts their ears to the prior to poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:13, thank you for your consideration, Shelter Volunteer.

CAITLIN GARSTKIEWICZ:

Hello city of Kankakee, I am a community member and resident of Kankakee county. I am also an LCSW, and have worked in mental health for the last seven years. I am writing today to encourage the city of Kankakee to support Fortitude and utilizing St Paul's church as a permanent homeless shelter. These services are imperative in ensuring equal opportunity in this community to ensure no one is left behind due to stigma, lack of community resources and inadequate service provided the homeless shelter will ensure a basic human right to shelter, which is the basis of working towards job security, physical and mental health management connection to basic human needs food and safety is simply just being treated as a human being. We cannot fail these people, we cannot fail this community. There is no evidence that a homeless shelter possesses physical threat nor is there evidence that a shelter will harm businesses. The only thing that is threatening is the stigma and inequality to serve as an apparition of a shelter having a permanent home at St. Paul, thank you so much for your time and consideration is deeply appreciated, all the best!

ANGELA SHEA:

At the September 14 budget meeting there was a discussion of an update to Ordinance number 2008-59 ordinance amending chapter two of the municipal code of the city Kankakee, but a city council meeting on September, 21 it is listed as orders amending chapter two of the municipal code, and a spirit of transparency this administration talks about how much it should be clarified but what specifically is being discussed is raising the salary of elected officials i.e. the Mayor, Aldermen and City Clerk in 2009 when this Ordinance was put in place the starting base was \$50,000 for Mayor and \$10,000 for Aldermen. There is a formula

that is built into the Ordinance, it includes a 1.5% yearly raise, depending on the cost of living increase for the year. As stated at the September 14th meeting, Elizabeth Kubal only remembers one year when there hasn't been a raise, using that formula the current base pay for the Mayor is between \$57,000 and \$58,000. This does not include additional stipends for being a Liquor Commissioner \$6000.00 a year KRMA 750 a meeting. Actually that's \$750.00 a month, ESU board (?) and other benefits. With the same formula, the current base for Alderman between \$11,000 and \$11,500. We live in a town with a median income of below \$35,000, unemployment rate of about 7% and a poverty level of 32.7%. We don't yet know the impact of Post-COVID recovery on our city finances. We have a huge pension deficit just waiting to be addressed, or push our city into bankruptcy, and our most recent budget is balanced by the skin of its teeth. Given that there have been two murders and numerous shootings all concentrated in the same area within the last two weeks, public safety should be the number one priority. I'm astounded that the Mayor, City Council would even have the nerve to consider asking for a raise. The city will be watching carefully to see who supports this ordinance. Thank you. Taxpayer in the Third Ward.

HEIDI FRAHM:

Hello, my teenage daughter and I have volunteered at the shelter for the past two years, we work with to spend time with people that are already in our community and on our streets. People do not come to Kankakee just to stay at the shelter. What we are doing is treating them humanely having dinner in a conversation, making connections so they feel like part of a family that cares in the best situation, helping them find a steady job and place to live, so they too can be a contributing member of our city? My daughter and I have never felt unsafe around the gas. My daughter spends her share time playing games and laughing with the friends we meet in a healthy nurturing environment. There are strict rules and procedures we all know them and the guests adhere to them. I realized that sometimes it's hard to be brave and vote "yes" when there is some opposition. We are all people pleaser deep inside and it's easier to just go along with the "squeaky wheels" just to keep the peace. But I am begging you to dig deeper than that vote with your heart, your guts, stand tall, and vote "YES" for the seven-day shelter and reach out a hand to some of the most vulnerable in our society. Let

Kankakee be an example of humanity, peace, and beauty, all rolled into one. Let love be your guide, not fear, and trust the organizers of the shelter to take it from there. Please set this example for all to see. We are watching now more than ever, let there be light. Thank you for your time.

LEEANN FLOWERS:

The need for a seven-day shelter in the Kankakee area is dire. I run a local group called Kankakee County Single Moms. There's continuously a need for shelter. At this time, the best I could do is call Joliet to see if they have room to take a mom. "IF" we as a group can pull funds to give her to her children there. Most times, leaving the area results in loss of employment. Only furthering the level of poverty and desperation. The organizations we have locally, such as catholic charities that KCCSI quickly run out of funding and are only able to help so many people with grant assistance. A shelter in this area would mean that a single mother who has nowhere else to go could have a safe place to bring her children and herself until she is back on her feet. The shelter can help those there find jobs, improve the moral and overall well-being and mental health of those that would require the services. There was a time when I had nothing after getting out of a very abusive relationship. I jumped from couch to couch or slept in my car with my two children. I called everywhere begging for temporary shelter, yet there was nothing. At that time, it was only a men's shelter. I assume that most of you have never spent Christmas in your car with some toddlers. It is so extremely depressing. I was lucky enough to own my car at the time, but trust me I would have preferred to have a bed and heat instead of keys and car seats parking in the Walmart parking lot to feel even a little safe through the night. I understand having the shelter in the downtown area may worry those who are doing their best to gentrify the area. Having somewhere for these individuals to go actually eliminates them just hanging around on the street. Homelessness does not always equal drunkards or addicts. In fact, it often does not. But in the case that someone was under the influence breathalyzer test will be administered at admission anyone over a certain limit will not be allowed in. Those who are causing problems in the area will be there with or without shelter. They are already there. The patrons will also be required to help keep the area around the shelter clean, which is a bonus to the city and the gentrification process. This shelter could be an amazing asset to our city. Through the shelter, programs could be

put in place to help those who need the service to get their life back on track. Needing temporary shelter is not a plight on the city. It shows that the city can support those that live here and include ALL residents of Kankakee in the Kankakee forward mentality. It shows that this community cares for those at the bottom as well as the top (6th Ward).

ROBYN SAVAGE:

Kankakee city council members, it wasn't too many years ago (1980'S) that the city council denied Harbor House, the permissions it needed to open a domestic violence shelter on Chicago Avenue in the heart of downtown where resources would have been more accessible. The simplified story is that members of the city council didn't want "that element" in the area. In hindsight, I imagine many would view that moment in time, as unfortunate and may even be embarrassed by the decision. Why wouldn't the city council help those in need back then? Today you are faced with a similar decision. How will history, look back on your decision? Does the city council support its own and help people in need or do members turn their back on the less fortunate? Thank you for the opportunity to revisit history (Former Harbor House Executive Director, Zonta Club Member, Co-Owner of Agents For Change, Inc: CHOICES).

SAMANTHA WOODMASTER:

Please don't judge a whole group of folks solely on the fact that they are homeless. So many various situations lead to homelessness, but nobody regardless of their situation deserves to actually be homeless. As a social worker, as someone who has worked as a Site Supervisor for Fortitude, I had the opportunity to interact with many homeless individuals on at least a weekly basis. They were kind, respectful, patient people just waiting and hoping for the connection they needed in order to jumpstart their path back to independence. That's where fortitude will come into play. Fortitude was just the trauma informed resource they desperately needed to get their lives back on track. Every person deserves a warm place to lay their head at night. Please do the honorable thing here and give our homeless the hand up they need as they locate and obtain stable housing. Don't let one's poor decision, mental health issue, physical health issue, lack of income, etc. ... dictate the outcome of their lives. Instead vote yes, and give our shelter-less neighbors the fighting chance they deserve (Bourbonnais).

CLAUDIA NOE:

Mayor and members of the City Council. For those of us who are Catholic, we aspire to fulfill what we refer to as the seven-corporal works of mercy based on the Gospels: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned and to bury the dead. The city of Kankakee has a great opportunity to be a much needed beacon of light and hope for communities around the country by approving the permit use of the St. Paul school facility in downtown Kankakee as a permanent shelter site for Fortitude Community Outreach. We can be the community that strives for BOTH economic growth, and human decency and kindness. The city of Kankakee is **not** being asked to actually fulfill any of these words. The city is not being asked to monetarily support these endeavors. Rather, other community members have stepped up to try to help those in need, and are asking the city to allow them to help those in our community who most often overlooked or avoided. The proposed shelter site is close to services that could help individuals overcome their obstacles and hardships. It offers the small amount of consistency in the lives for people that have very little of that. Can you imagine having to worry about where you might be sleeping for the night? Or when you might be able to take a shower again? Or wait for your next meal to be? No one wants to see homelessness in our communities, but rather than turn our heads and look the other way, wouldn't it be better to actually offer solutions to help lift those out of these circumstances? To be a partner in bettering the lives of everyone in the community? Before each council member cast their vote on this issue this evening, I ask you to remember the words of Matthew Chapter 25 verses 44 and 45 when Jesus' followers ask, "When did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes, or sick, or in prison, and did not help you?" Jesus replies, "Whatever you did NOT do for one of the least of these, you did not do for ME."

JILL ALLEN:

Dear members of the Kankakee City Council, I strongly urge you to vote "yes" to St Paul's Lutheran as the Permanent Shelter Site for the 2021 season. You've been given statistics and facts, I'd like to give you a little different perspective. In my own experience, first the Thursday night outreach and then volunteering evening, overnights and mornings in the various shelter sites, I've learned, I've grown, and I've changed the individuals and

families (my neighbors) that I've met have been kind, friendly, well behaved, and helpful. Never once was there trouble on the shifts I worked. While they are grateful for the services offered, so am I for I have been blessed beyond measure in knowing the citizens of our county, loving my neighbor, being the hands of feet of Jesus is a blessing. Giving them ease to access of centrally located services should be our privilege. The thought of the denying families and individuals easy, convenient is centrally located to the most basic of comforts, and most people enjoy each evening should be abhorrent to you. Cities across America are working hard to assist their vulnerable homeless population. Please let Kankakee be just as forward thinking in easing the burden on our own homeless population.

PASTOR JOHN PEETERS:

To whom it may concern. Speaking in my own personal name as a Pastor who has had multiple occasions to deal with homeless people over the years. I would like to add my endorsement to the establishment of a permanent homeless shelter near downtown Kankakee as is currently being currently proposed by Fortitude Community. St. Patrick's Church 428 South Indiana Avenue, Kankakee.

DEBORAH DOLT:

Dear Mayor Wells-Armstrong and city council members. The board of directors of Agape Community Outreach mission, a downtown Kankakee social service agency, which serves over 300 people each year, who are experiencing homelessness expresses our strong support for the establishment of a permanent location in the downtown Kankakee area for emergency shelter for persons experiencing homelessness. Sincerely, the Executive Director, also signed by Rev. Herb Thompson, Wendellyn Shelquist, Kendall Wenzelman, Rev. John Peeters, Jasper Jones and Ericka Esters.

MARLENE AUMILLE:

I would like to encourage the board to vote yes to turn unused property into a homeless shelter. This area has been hit hard economically, and many have been left with nothing and no one to turn to. With the Salvation Army closing their shelter, it has been hard for people struggling to find any sense of peace and safety. We need more shelters in this area. If you care at all about this community at the safety of our citizens, you need to support Fortitude to and allow them to add this shelter to the area. In the long run, it will add to the positive impression of this area. Do

you really want to be the city no for abandoning the neediest of citizens? Thank you.

THERESE M. SCHULTZ:

Madam Mayor and City Council. Regarding the mission to have a homeless shelter at St Paul's unused school building I repeat the following facts. 1. St Paul's congregation voted and passed the proposal with 80% of those voting agree. 2. the citizen planning board voted unanimously to recommend approval of this. 3. The people Kankakee overwhelmingly want this permit approved where they have taken the time to call you or not. 4. The improvements, according to the article in the newspaper last week will not be finished before April 1, 2021. This gives us time to PROVE that this will improve lives for the least fortunate and therefore the rest of Kankakee. This will NOT negatively impact Kankakee. I have confidence that with the regulations set up by the Director of Fortitude, individuals served will understand that loitering will only diminish their chances of being able to continue being allowed to stay. We actually support the Riverwalk and we're involved with a group of OVER 5 years ago, which had a very good inaugural plan, similar to the current one. Each can benefit the other. To reiterate what Dr. Broers wrote, "We cannot support a Kankakee Forward for the middle and upper class, but not for everyone. You represent the people of Kankakee, NOT the out of town investors. Do the RIGHT thing and approve of one-year conditional use permit."

RHONDA THOMAS:

Dear Kankakee City Council Members, please vote in favor of the special use permit for St Paul school as a nightly shelter for Fortitude Community Outreach. A consistent shelter site is a true path to allow the homeless population to access the necessary resources which could assist them in finding permanent housing. I pray that you vote to approve the permit for St Paul School, and be the driving force that allows Fortitude Community Outreach the ability to make a life changing difference for the homeless in our community (Zonta Club of Kankakee Service Committee Co-chair).

CAROL SZYNAL:

I believe a shelter at St Paul's old school is necessary and is an expression of the caring nature of the citizens of Kankakee. Please vote yes.

BETH AND MIKE ROCKERT: Dear Kankakee Council, I have lived in Kankakee County

for over 30 years, I love our community. My husband and I worked alongside Dawn for the first three years of the program. We watched it grow from a small street outreach to what it is today. We also had the privilege of serving on the first board of directors. We see the passion in the Fortitude leadership and volunteers, and we know the impact it has on the homeless community who have come to depend on the organization for support. Fortitude loves and cares for the homeless community, instead of ignoring them. Dawn and her team see the value of each person they serve. Fortitude has stepped up when no one else wanted to or was able to. A permanent location for their shelter is more than a building, it's a rescue. It means Fortitude can better spare the homeless population. It will provide more than shelter, it will provide community and relationships. We support the vote for the permanent location. Many people arguing against the vote are concerned for the city's revitalization. To truly revitalize our community, it must care for the underprivileged and underserved. To them I say, a permit shelter is a necessary step for revitalization. Some are concerned about loitering and disruption. However, a permanent location will provide structure and shelter and prevent loitering. Please vote yes to the St. Paul location. Be the voice for those who need it. Thank you.

JULIA MCDONALD:

Hello Mayor Wells-Armstrong and City Council Members. I am writing again to ask that you vote YES to the proposed Fortitude shelter in downtown Kankakee. I would have such pride in our town if we did this. Let's show other towns how to approach their own homelessness by be the example of this others will follow. We could make this concrete problem change in our community. Move desperate people from the streets to a shelter or continue to speculate about negative impact and do nothing. As a self-employed massage therapist and yoga teacher in downtown Kankakee. I hope you reject imagined outcomes that are rooted in fear, and instead vote YES to positive outcomes rooted in reality.

SHERRI FUNK:

To whom it may concern. I am sending my email pleading with you to approve the homeless shelter requested by Fortitude Outreach. While I understand your concerns, I urge you to continue to follow the model of this charity organization and the good that they have done for our homeless community. Within Kankakee county there are numbers of homeless adults, teenagers, and children. Documentation can be provided by each school district to

substantiate my statement. I believe it is better to have the homeless in a safe shelter as opposed to wandering the streets and seeking shelter in people's yards, or unsecured buildings or vehicles, wandering the streets and so on. Many shelters that follow the PADS model have been run successfully without incident. Please give Fortitude the same opportunities. Thank you

DAWN BROERS:

I was told I should begin with something warm for the Council. I agree, I should. But after 2 months of disillusioning local, state and federal politics. I just don't have it in me. I ask for your understanding on that. As the Fortitude Director, I have heard many excuses over the last few weeks as to why shelter permit cannot be approved: This doesn't fit into the city's plans, It's needed, but somewhere else, I've received too many emails from a Bourbonnais organization I don't like, I've heard of St Paul's congregation was railroaded into this decision An influential individual is opposed. I have a spouse or friend deeply and financially involved in the downtown rejuvenation. This will negatively impact downtown Kankakee The shelter should be at the Salvation Army Not one of these is a valid reason to oppose a 7/day shelter in Kankakee is some of them are outright untrue. You have heard several different times from myself and the directors at the Salvation Army that there is a zero chance an on-site shelter can or will be at that site. Proclaiming support for a shelter, "just not there" will appease a guilty conscience today, but it will continue to be said, no matter what proposed site, until brave politicians set aside politics and do the best thing for our homeless. We need to call this what it is, **gentrification**, defined as "the process of renovating and improving the house or district so that it conforms to middle-class taste". Gentrification promoted in a city priding itself on the Kankakee Forward initiative and supported by an upper class, **who do not live in Kankakee**. We support a Kankakee forward not just for the middle and upper class but for everyone. At the last City Council meeting, it was insinuated that a couple of incidents at the Depot over the summer was Fortitude's fault, and a harbinger of things to come if a shelter was downtown. This is grossly unfair. We are no more at fault for a couple of incidents committed by people who may not have been homeless, that occurred near where we serve for 30 minutes one time per week, then the police are at fault for not preventing every crime or the fireman at fault for

not preventing every fire. Everything I have seen and heard over the last month is that the people of Kankakee overwhelmingly want this permit approved, whether they have taken the time to call you or not. Your citizen planning board unanimously recommended that you approve this. You represent the people of Kankakee. **The People.** We will continue to be here for those people. Please continue to be here for us. I ask you again to do the brave thing and approve a one-year conditional use permit. Always in an appreciation for your service, consideration and assistance (Executive Director, Fortitude).

EMILY HINTON:

As a Fortitude supporter, a local food pantry worker and supporter as well as Kankakee County resident, I implore you to approve the use of St Paul's for permanent shelter, the homeless will be with us whether it's pretty or convenient. Downtown Kankakee is a hub for these people and St. Paul's makes so much sense. It provides a stable central location, eliminating the need for people to find transportation to other sites and all types of inclement weather. They are here in downtown Kankakee in corners, doorways, alleys, etc. Can we agree to give them a decent shelter for the freezing snowy, dangerous night? Please vote yes. Lives are in the balance.

MATTHEW PHESS:

These are human beings who need help. Your constituents have been loud and clear, "Do the right thing!" Money sings, "take this problem somewhere else." 1 year is what we're asking. A chance to show we can improve this problem and not exacerbate it. Grant Fortitude a 1-year conditional use permit.

KENNETH GRIGGS:

I'm a Kankakee County resident and a volunteer at Fortitude Community Outreach. I'm writing once again to show my support for Fortitude Community Outreach and urge you to grant the seven-day permit. Again, this is an opportunity to improve the community, compassionately addressing a need for the most vulnerable among us. At a time when our humanity is being tested by the minute. We owe it to ourselves to create structures and safe-spaces for those who lack it. Doing nothing when we have access to tools is an indictment of each of us. Thank you again.

LAVERN K. JORDAN:

I have been a Counselor/Educator for 34 years and thus the worked hard to understand human behavior, thoughts, feelings, and motivations. Quite frankly, I am stumped by

many of the concerns of some city council members to granting permission to Fortitude to use the St. Pauls building for permanent shelter for the area homeless. I have heard concerns that it could increase loitering and inappropriate interactions with persons patronizing area businesses. It seems to me that it will decrease the above mentioned concerns as it will provide a safe space for persons to be during the hours of the shelter operation and thus off the streets and out of contact with persons patronizing local businesses. It would also bring new life to a relatively unused building, thus increasing the value of a building. I do understand that the Kankakee City Council has concerns about the safety, economic stability, and general appearance, of the downtown area, the homeless population contributes very little to the financial growth of the area. However, I want to share with you my own experience with the downtown business area as Fortitude volunteer. I live in Bradley and generally, do business and eat out in Bradley or Bourbonnais or up north. I volunteered to plant the required sign for the Zoning Board meeting. It had been recommended to me to try the Station Street Cafe, which I had not done until my husband and I went to plant the sign. We were close and decided to give it a try. We loved the menu, service the patio dining, we have been back several times since then and recommended it to several people. Based on my recommendation the Fortitude Director met another Fortitude volunteer for lunch, and they really liked it and in turn have recommended it to other person. One time after eating at the Station Street Cafe. My husband and I walked down to try out the Donut Foundry, the doughnuts were amazing. I will definitely buy donuts there in the future and once again have recommended it to several friends. There are about 400 Fortitude volunteers. Many of these volunteers deliver meals to the shelter, either at dinnertime for breakfast or they do not eat at the shelter. What if half of them is some time went to a downtown eatery that they would not have done if they had not been in the area? What if they recommended it so their family and friends? The challenge I want to give you is look beyond what the homeless cannot do for Kankakee and consider the economic potential of the Fortitude volunteers?

MARISSA L. RAPIER:

Dear esteemed council members, the other day when I walked in my dogs at Cobb Park, I noticed a cart that was loaded there with what appeared to be someone's worldly

possessions. I walked down further to see if anyone may need assistance without causing the person alarm. There, there was a man washing himself on the riverbank in my neighborhood. I thought if only he had have a place to go daily for showers, warm meals, fellowship, and a place to get be safe. We can't ignore this these folks exist, nor can we continue to pretend that they will not still be part of the city of Kankakee community if the shelter isn't permitted to exist the St Paul's. One thing I always believed about my hometown of Kankakee was that if anyone can take a key care, rather than dwelling on the negative, what could go wrong, it may have happened in the past with the other shelter. How about focusing on...of embracing everyone who makes Kankakee.

JACK TISON:

I am a member of Fortitude Board and Co-chair of River Valley Christian Fellowship Board. While I understand the significant discussion, relative to approving the use of St. Paul's for seven days a week for Fortitude shelters site. There are no facts and evidence to support a “no” decision to provide an accurate basis for final decision supporting a one year trial to seven days a week model will provide the necessary basis for a long term fact based decision, thank you for considering.

ANNE BRIDGES:

To all concerned, in regards to the proposed shelter site, please agree to the plan, it makes so much sense I and from all I've heard and read is unanimously thought to be a good idea. I formally helped manage the Center of Hope food pantry. Unrelated. I have taken in homeless people on three different occasions. All of these ordinary citizens are simply in a bad place needing a hand up. Nothing to be afraid of! And from what I know about Fortitude Community Outreach, it is a high-quality ministry. Moving to this area for my job, I chose to settle my family in Kankakee for its history, diversity, and more urban feel. I see young people are fresh energy coming to Kankakee. Let's proactively adopt this good idea is show ourselves to include and care for all in the vibe that's growing here. I believe it will actually strengthen and improve our city. Thank you

JANICE MILLER:

I am very concerned about the homeless shelter moving in right next door to our gallery. I have children here Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings and Saturday from 9:00A.M. to 4:00 P.M., who have autism so do not have the

ability to filter good from bad. They trust us, and so they trust anything associated with the gallery. The alley space and those in it will probably be perceived by them as food. I hate to think how they could be hurt. The parents might perceive it as trouble and keep their children from coming. Since we are seeing children and young adults talk for the first time, while others increase their self-esteem and learn skills they would need to be employed. It would be a shame to close this gallery. We have been here five years and this has been a very good spot for us. The building is owned by the parents of one of our artists. Moving is not feasible for us. Could the homeless shelter be somewhere else, more appropriate? I have asked to test to see show some of the things we have done (Merchant Street Art Gallery with Autism).

ROLL CALL

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I want to thank everybody for taking the time to submit their comments. Jasmine thank you for compiling everything you and Wade. We will go ahead and move forward with Roll Call of the City Council.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Present (0) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Kosman, Schuldt, Kubal, McGrath, Schiel Piggush, Nelson, Bertrand, Hoffman, Ellexson, Brewer-Watson.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Anjanita, did you say something?

KRIS SCHMITZ: I did Mayor. I'm here.

CLERK DUMAS: I'm sorry Kris. Thank you

MAYOR WELLS ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Item 6 Minutes from Tuesday September 8th, 2020 will be provided at a later date. Item 7 Petitions we have none. Item 8 Communications.

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEM 8A: Memorandum from Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier, McGrath, LTD. Regarding the Face Coverings Ordinance (*Information Only*).

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Mike McGrath are you there? Do you have the memo in front of you?

MIKE MCGRATH: I do.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: To save my voice, can you read it? I just want to clarify for the community about the Mask Ordinance so our Attorney is going to read the memo that has been provided to the City Council.

MIKE MCGRATH: Sure. Regarding Face Coverings dated September 18th 2020, or Face Mask passed by the City Council at the September 8th, 2020 meeting was legal. Although legal, there is no penalty in the Ordinance, so it is unenforceable. This ordinance was suggested by the Illinois Municipal League. It is our responsibility to pass on their suggestions and let each respective City Council member decide if the suggested ordinance fits the needs of the respective municipality. On August 12th, 2020, Kristine Schmitz sent the Ordinance to the Clerk's office at 3:25P.M. On that same day at 3:44P.M. Mike asked that it be pulled back from the packet. At 3:52pm, Kristine acknowledge what email correspondence. At the same time, Mike asked Attorney Lauren Duvall from our office to revise the Ordinance accordingly. The next day on August 13th, 2020 at 8:49 A.M. Mike's legal assistant, Kathleen Kerry sent the revised Ordinance to the City Clerk's office. This revised Ordinance had all of this correct information, correct references to Kankakee, including it being a home rule community, and also add a, "up to a \$750 fine" the penalty provision. The model Ordinance from the IML was drafted, such that the city could insert the code provision relating to penalties for Ordinance violations. However, upon review of the general fences in nuisance code chapters. There are no provisions relating to penalties for general Ordinance violations. Rather, certain ordinances, or nuisances, and their own corresponding penalties. The "up to \$750" was inserted, as the penalty is the maximum amount allowable for a homeroom municipality to assess. The attorneys (*inaudible*) discuss with the administration decision to add" up to \$750" into the ordinance. The explanation for adding is outlined above. This is the

Ordinance our office prepared and submitted it to the City Council for the first reading. When it came time to prepare the packet for the September 8th, 2020 City Council meeting the Clerk's office took the first version of the Ordinance out of the "unfinished business", folder by mistake and included in the packet for the City Council meeting. Again, this first version was revised by our office it's sent to the Clerk's office. On August 13th, 2020 at 8:49A.M. Those the unrevised version was mistakenly placed in the City Council packet by the clerk's office. This version was passed by the City Council, and it contains no penalty. Although it mandates masks must be worn. There's no penalty provided so it serves as a warning that businesses may refuse to serve or sell their products to anyone in their store or location, that is not wearing a facemask. Our police department cannot enforce the ordinance since, since there is no penalty. We apologize for the confusion that the Illinois Municipal League Ordinance has caused in the future we will include the model ordinances suggested by the IML in a way direction as to whether or not the city council wants to adopt the same, all or more of the suggestions. Prior to drafting the Ordinance. Contrary to comments made about charging the city for trampling this Ordinance, no charges were made, or will be made from our office or work on this Ordinance.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Mike. I just wanted to make sure that the community was clear that there's no fine. We will move on to Items 8B and 8C.

ITEM 8B: St John United Church of Christ, 1045, West River Street, Requesting the Street Closure of South Rutledge Avenue, at the Corner of West River Street to the Corner of Park, off of Enos to Host their Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, October 4th, 2020, Sunday, October 11th, 2020 Sunday, October 18th, 2020 and Sunday, October 25th, 2020 from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.

ITEM 8C: Charlene Miller is Requesting a Noise Permit at 826 North of Fifth Avenue to Host "Birthday Parties" on Saturday, September 26th, 2020 and Sunday, September 27th, 2020 from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., with rain dates on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020 and Sunday, October 4th, 2020.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections I would like to combine Items 8B

and 8C. May I have a motion to approve both request?

ALD OSENGA: Motion to approve Mayor.

ALD CRAWFORD: I will second that.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Any discussion on those items? Since we are on Zoom, we will do a Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 9 Standing Committee Reports.

ITEM 9A: Building & Code – Alderwoman Lewis chaired the meeting in the absence of Alderwoman Malone Marshall. The meeting was held on Thursday, August 20th, 2020 Highlights include: We had a quorum and the minutes were approved from the July 16th meeting but there were no actions taken because we didn't have a quorum at that time. The bills for June in the amount of \$2,142.56 was motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Faford, roll call vote, and approval. The July bills in the amount of \$4,071.61 was motioned by Alderman Cobbs and Seconded Alderman Brown and we voted to approve. We had a general discussion about the number of code inspectors. The city normally had 7 code inspectors one per Ward. We discussed potentially having 6 because Ward 3 and 4 can be handled by one person. The Code Director informed us that we were approved for another Code Inspector and she informed us about some big projects in addition to the regular work. In the 1st Ward the demo, clean up and removal of junk cars in the 2nd Ward cleaning up Bourbonnais and Hickory, In the 4th Ward (inaudible) and up to code, in the 5th Ward addressing Fifth Avenue, vacant buildings and Jewel cleaned up, in the 7th Ward demo's on vacant buildings and auto body shop clean up and car removal. Alderman Faford had three areas of concern that were addressed and the Code Director (inaudible) the DPW is on hold with except for emergencies due to the storm.

There was no need for an Executive Session, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:18 P.M. Thank you.

ITEM 9B:

Ordinance – Alderman Tall

The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 25th, 2020

Highlights include: Just briefly, the minutes are basically the same from our previous month's meeting. The only change was section, 6.-12, a dog found to be vicious shall not be released to the owner until the chief of police approved the enclosure as defined in this section. Then the other part I want to mention, is the 6.12-1. Section F licensing vicious dogs. We raised the peep from \$50.00 to \$75.00 per month. and I want to make mention of the request for an honorable street designation, William H. McCarthy, which was approved by 5 votes to 2 the meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M. We will be having an Ordinance meeting tomorrow in person. Thank you.

ITEM 9C:

License & Franchise – Alderman Curtis

The meeting was held on Thursday, September 10th, 2020

We were provided an update from Bernie Anderson that they were beginning work on the Jeffrey street project and that will take weeks. Under old business Alderman Tall submitted some proposed amendments from 2019 for license fees from the ordinance committee he is going to follow up on that. We did have some new business items. We had two taxing applications. We have not had that in a long time and I know that's further on the agenda so when you want me to, I explain that more in detail. I will say that the committee recommended both of these to be brought to full council will get the details when it comes to vote for Council. We also received information from the Clerk's office, asking for clarification for gaming and coin machines. The old ordinance used to charge \$700.00 per established annually at each establishment and \$100.00 per machine our new ordinance that was a couple years ago, I believe it was \$250.00 for the license video gambling machines. The question was regarding to \$700.00 annual fee has not been being collected should it be collected going forward. A motion was made by Alderman Tall, that at that old ordinance is still in effect it needs to be repealed. It hasn't been done so already was seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion was approved 5 Ayes was 0 Nays. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M. Further on the agenda we will talk about the tax applications. Thank you.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

ITEM 10A: City of Kankakee - \$92,061.79

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to accept the Reports of Officers?

ALD FAFORD: I move we accept the report of officers placed the money in the proper accounts and approve the bills in the amount of \$92,061.79

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion on any of the bills? Hearing none, Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Swanson, Osenga, O'Brien (*abstain on check# 76868*), Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
NAYS: Tall, Crawford
(12) Ayes (2) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 11A.
Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 11A: PB 2020-7-2 Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Fortitude Community Outreach for a Shelter Care Facility at 240 South Dearborn Avenue (St Paul's Lutheran Church) in the City of Kankakee (*2nd Reading*).

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: This is the second reading so we did not need to suspend the rules. Mike Hoffman and I'll go ahead and let you provide a synopsis and any implications as a result of a vote.

MIKE HOFFMAN: Sure. Obviously, you've heard a lot of comments from the public go, mostly for (*inaudible*) at your meetings. I will make a couple of notes, we did have a meeting with a lot of the business owners. On August 14th, I believe it was a lot of them that did express a number of concerns we did have a public hearing before the planning board. As you've heard they voted five to zero with one abstention to approve the conditional use. They did not put any conditions on it so

for example you've heard comments in the public comments about a one-year time period that is not in the planning board's recommendation. Put a limitation on that, go back for renewal. Think of a pressing issue here is you know you've got six criteria in your zoning ordinance that outline. Whether this is appropriate or not. And if you look at our staff memo there were claims in favor and against this particular case so it is a very delicate and very controversial issue and as we've heard

To a person. I have not really heard anyone say that this is a bad idea the concerns that I've mostly heard is that this may or may not be the right location so it's really kind of about that. I will say, regardless of how you go Fortitude will still be able to continue to operate in the temporary shelters as they have been so that's not an issue. The issue is this location and St Paul is appropriate for the use. And if it is, do you want to put any conditions on it so that's really the pertinent issue here (*inaudible*) answering questions.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Mike. And I just will note that the feedback you've been hearing has come from people throughout the county, not everybody has been in the city resides in the city of Kankakee. So, I just want to be transparent about that as well. Do I have a motion to approve the conditional use permit?

ALD FAFORD: Yes Mayor, I would like to amend this ordinance if it's possible. I'm not sure how the rules work on that. I would like to propose an amendment. Can I do that?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Mike McGrath, Alderman Faford would like to propose an amendment on the Ordinance

MIKE MCGRATH: He can make a motion to amend the ordinance as it's been presented or included in the packet but he would have to mention your state (*inaudible*).

ALD FAFORD: I'd like to amend the ordinance to make it an eight month, starting October 1ST, 2020 through May 1ST, 2021 Conditional Use Permit and add the following conditions.

1. Fortitude keep a record of all persons staying in shelter at the shelter during the hours of operation. Notates, anyone who leaves and return to the shelter, during the time of operation, except to go to a job.
2. During the same time, the City Police Department will

keep a record of all names of all citations, or verbal warnings, given to people in the downtown area during the hours that Fortitude is in operation.

MIKE HOFFMAN:

Alderman Faford, I have a question on that. When you say that, do you mean between October and May when they're operating 24 seven or Are you just mean the 6:30 P.M. to forgot, whether it's 6:30 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. that they close in the morning?

ALD FAFORD:

Both.

MIKE HOFFMAN:

Alright, Thank you.

ALD FAFORD:

3. These records will then be compared by the police department, and a report given to the city council by the second meeting in June comparing the number of people served by Fortitude versus other members of the general public, who had dealings with the police. So that we can tell if it's the Fortitude causing a problem for somebody else.

4. The city council determines whether to make it permanent or on a year-to-year basis. That's my amendment.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, so we have a motion to amend with four conditions. They have been documented by Mike Hoffman our Planner. Motion to amend and approve, a second to approve the amended motion.

ALD TALL:

Yes, I'll make that motion. I'll second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We have a motion to approve the amendments by Alderman Faford and a second to approve the conditional use permit with amendments by Alderman Tall. Any discussion because this is the second reading. So, this is the final vote. Any discussion? Alderman Tetter?

ALD TETTER:

As it relates to the homelessness we're voting on the amendment only, but I hope it's okay for me to just make one brief comment about the homeless population homeless shelter in the city of Kankakee that's being determined. In my opinion, it should be placed in a residential area. We have several areas to choose from, in the 7TH Ward, but I think it should be in a residential area and we should put our best foot forward. In doing so, to show the community

that we can have a motto homeless shelter and in that particular case I can't find a better place than a location on our extreme west side of town that has a, it's a residential area. And I think that we can find a location that would be suitable for the homeless shelter and it would be comparable to a (inaudible). So, those are projects that you can move from and you could be right next to a (inaudible) and you wouldn't even know that there's individuals that's staying there that's not homeowners. I just want to make that comment.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTONG: Okay. Thank you. Alderman Crawford?

ALD CRAWFORD: Yes, Thank you Mayor. I would tend to agree, a little bit there with Aldermen Tetters there. There is actually a house that is at 210 South Washington Avenue. That formerly was used by Nexus, Indian Oaks that had 20 bedrooms in this house they were housing alcohol abuse, drug abuse, people and it was being used for about five or six years. It's only about three blocks from downtown. There's a bus stop very short but you know this is a very tough vote, and it's one of our bigger votes we have and I think we definitely have to address the homeless shelter. But I would also like to see, we're addressing the homeless shelter that we somehow get counseling for them and not be releasing them back into the community where we have 24/7 and we have counseling for them where it helps them get back into society, and be a productive citizen once again and if there's anything I can do to sit on a board or help to have that project have that going forward, I'll be more than happy to help with that. So, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Alderman Crawford.. Anyone else have any comments, Alderwoman Gall.

ALD GALL: Yeah, I have a lot to say about this actually because I have a lot of friends who volunteer Fortitude, I'm so proud of them and I have friends on the board there. I don't want to hurt anybody here but I'll just kind of share some my thoughts. I were from St. Paul, I think that's what churches should do so I understand where they're coming from. As far as Fortitude if sheltering the homeless were my mission and somebody was offering a building. I would think that's worth fighting for too so I really understand. But in our position our job is to make intentional long-term decisions for downtown. And it's because of intentional long-term

decisions of leaders over the past two decades that we're finally seeing downtown grow and we're seeing a change in production from a time where the city was at a really low point. And I think we're really changing that and if you're not from here maybe you're just seeing the downtown growing, but we've really come from a low place. I just feel like we have more work to do until I feel like this is a strip that is downtown and strong enough for something like this. What I like about the pads shelter is that Bradley and Bourbonnais are able to share the responsibility because I do feel like it's a county wide issue, so I do like that. I'm not against having another shelter in Kankakee but downtown is next to our Riverfront project and it has historic charm and all these things that actually separate Kankakee from any other place and that's kind of like what gives us potential for growth. So, I consider helping the homeless population and revitalizing downtown, two separate issues that are worth fighting for. So, I just want to say that.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderwoman Gall. Any further discussion. Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: Thank you Mayor. One quick question first. The first vote would be just on the proposed amendment is that correct?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: There's only one vote.

ALD O'BRIEN: I thought, the first one would be on the amendment whether or not we approve that or not, you know, because they're just the motion that's not been adopted is that correct?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So, Mike we're doing a motion to approve the conditional use permit with the amendment. That's the first motion, Is that correct Mike McGrath?

MIKE MCGRATH: No, the first motion actually is the motion to amend the ordinance, with the 4 provisions that Alderman Faford suggested, and if that were to pass then the next vote would be to approve it with the amendments. Okay,

MAYOR WELLS ARMSTRONG: Thank you for clarification. Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: So, there'll be two votes. The first is on the amendment and then the second is either the original proposal or the new proposal, right?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: The vote passes to amend, then will vote to approve it.

ALD O'BRIEN: Even if it doesn't, we vote on the original, right?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Correct.

ALD O'BRIEN: Okay, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Yes.

ALD O'BRIEN: With that being said, I want to address the underlying issue for me, for all of us, this is a truly heartbreaking issue. You know I share the concerns, all of which have been expressed so eloquently the last few months on this issue. However, I'm opposed to using this particular site as a permanent shelter. Similar to what Alderwoman Gall mentioned. We, as the city's elected officials, we have a fiduciary duty to do what's best in the long-term interest of the people in the city. And I think the over the last 30 years the city's made tremendous progress in many areas including in the downtown. That's continued over the last few years and, from my perspective, it would not be a consistent with our fiduciary duty to do this at this particular site. Again, that's not to say we can't do it and shouldn't do it somewhere in the city. But that's why I'm opposed to this proposal at this particular site. I also want to say that in the event this site is not approved, does not mean that the city's elected officials are indifferent to this issue and the individuals in our local homeless community. We know this is an absolutely critical issue, and want to work with all interested parties to find the best possible way to address this issue. And to me that means a regional approach. That includes the private sector and I think we need to, especially include the building owners the property owners the people who have expressed opposition to the site, but also expressed sincere concern about the underlying issue, and ask them for their help and willingness to find solutions, so that we really address the underlying lying issue here. Thank you very much.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Alderman O'Brien. Okay, so the motion on the floor is to amend the ordinance, approving a conditional use permit Fortitude Community Outreach. The first motion is to amend the ordinance and it would add four

conditions that Alderman Faford presented. So, we will do a roll call vote at this time.

CLERK DUMAS:

AYES: Curtis, Tall, Faford, Crawford

NAYS: Tetter, Brown, Cobbs, Lewis, Swanson, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(4) Ayes (10) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, so the motion fails to amend. Now, I'm putting up the motion to approve as presented by the planning board. Correct, Mike McGrath?

MIKE MCGRATH:

That's is correct Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, now the motion on the floor is to approve the recommendation by the Planning Board for conditional use permit to Fortitude Community Outreach. Do I have a motion to approve?

ALD FAFORD:

I so move.

ALD TALL:

I'll second the motion.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderman Tall. So, this is the motion to approve the conditional use permit recommended by the planning board. Any further discussion?

ALD CRAWFORD:

I have a question Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Crawford?

ALD CRAWFORD:

So now we are voting to approve or not to approve voting St Paul's.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: The motion is to approve the conditional use permit for Fortitude. I think I saw another hand. Alderman Curtis?

ALD CURTIS:

So, just to clarify, this is a perpetual approval at this location correct?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: This is for permanent shelter at St Paul's. Correct.

ALD CURTIS:

Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You're welcome. And then I think I saw Alderman Osenga.

ALD OSENGA: Yes. Thank you Mayor. The only comment I have to make is in Kankakee, we currently have a homeless shelter on Fifth Avenue, Gift of God homeless shelter and I believe that's been there since 2008. And if this does not get approved at this point, I would like to encourage Fortitude and Gift of God to maybe get together and work together. It seems like there's competition here between the two. I've gotten so many calls from people on both boards of directors and these two outfits, organizations, and I that's a big thing for me we currently have a homeless shelter in Kankakee, and it's been in business for quite some time. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Alderman Osenga. So again, to avoid confusion. The vote is to approve the recommendation of a conditional use permit to Fortitude Community Outreach for permanent shelter at St Paul's location, roll call please. Oh sorry, Alderman Curtis?

ALD CURTIS: I just, I just, I knew I had a comment just like to make another comment I did, I will say I did like Alderman Faford's suggestion of the trial period for eight months, and then reevaluate. What I was looking at this is...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: This is permanent

ALD CURTIS: This is permanent. That is a concern of mine If we add the eight months, I think that was good recommendations by Alderman Faford.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, that failed so we're on to approve it for permanent. So, we'll go ahead and go to a roll call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tall, Faford
NAYS: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(2) Ayes (12) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay the motion fails, but again, Mike Hoffman, I just want to reiterate Fortitude is still allowed to operate in a temporary shelter in the city of Kankakee, correct.

MIKE HOFFMAN: That's correct.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I think there was one site last year, might have been in the Third Ward and might have had a conditional use for a year, is that correct.

MIKE HOFFMAN: Yes, that's correct. Immanuel Baptist site was in a residential area so that one did require a conditional use. If it's in a commercial or industrial area doesn't even require that it's just a temporary permit but if it's a residential it does require a conditional use that one received it. And the way the ordinance was written it needs an annual renewal. So, if Fortitude wants to use that facility this year I would suggest renewing that permit, perhaps at your next meeting.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you. Alderman Crawford

ALD CRAWFORD: Yes. I guess he kind of answered the question but I was gonna go ahead and make the motion to go ahead and renew.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Its, not on the agenda Alderman Crawford. We'll get it on for the next meeting.

ALD CRAWFORD: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You're welcome. Alright, moving on to New Business Item 12A.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 12A: Ordinance Declaring Certain Property Surplus of the City of Kankakee- Fire Department and Authorizing the Sale Thereof.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: If there are no objections, I'll take a motion to suspend the rules that will interfere with the passage of the ordinance.

ALD OSENGA: So move.

ALD TETTER: Second Your Honor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Since we're on Zoom we'll do a roll call.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude

(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. May I have a motion to place the ordinance on final passage?

ALD OSENGA: So move Mayor.

ALD TETTER: Second Your Honor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga and Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Any discussion? Chief, do you want to elaborate?

CHIEF SCHULDT: Yes, I can. Thank you, Mayor. So as many of you know we surplus that 1986 was a few months ago, we got a different vehicle which is smaller for the maintenance division that we are housing now, associated need to take inventory of a number of equipment. So, some of that equipment that was found in the tactical rescue team was something that was bought by the fire department, a long time ago. Some of that equipment actually outdated and some of us redundant as well. Some of that equipment includes a rescue sled, some rope, some plastic helmets, patient packaging device, and harnesses, and a number of small items like brakes, carabiners, figure eights, and etc., that we simply don't need anymore.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Any discussion?

ALD CRAWFORD: Yes, I have a question.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Go ahead.

ALD CRAWFORD: Thank you Mayor, I see we have one of these on here for the police department and also one for the fire department. When we made the sales does that go back into their budget, or does it go into the general fund or, where does the monies go to?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I will say, it usually goes to the general fund. Is that correct Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: Yes, typically, we put it into the general fund as the amounts aren't that large and the capital asset, at this point has always been fully depreciated.

ALD CRAWFORD: Okay, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You're welcome. Any other discussion?

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12B.

ITEM 12B: Ordinance Declaring Certain Property Surplus for the City of Kankakee – Kankakee Police Department and Authorizing the Sale Thereof.

CHIEF KOSMAN: Mayor This is a 2014 Dodge Charger, that is inoperable it's been in repairing yard for the last couple years, and they've been using it taking parts off of it. It's no longer usable so this would be sold for a salvage at the salvage yard.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay. If there are no objection, I will ask for a motion to suspend the rules that interfere with the passage of the ordinance.

ALD BROWN: Motion to suspend the rules that interfere with the passage of the ordinance.

ALD OSENGA: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Osenga. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Motion to place on final passage.

ALD BROWN: So move.

ALD OSENGA: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Brown and Seconded by Alderman Osenga. Any discussion on this item? Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS:

AYES: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item C.

ITEM 12C:

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Aldermen Brown contacted me today said that there's some further discussion that needs to take place I'm going to go ahead and pull it. And this does pertain to the salary ordinance and restructuring of some of the positions in the city that include the Mayor's office, the City Clerk and the City Council. The ordinance is available for transparency on the city's website. The whole, the entire municipal code is now online and sold as a compensation report that contains compensation salaries for all of the city's employees about 300 employees so we'll have further discussion and in follow up on that. Moving on to Item D.

ITEM 12D:

Recommendation to Award the Bid in the Amount of \$138,779.00 to Utility Dynamics Corporation for the Court Street Lighting Upgrades and Reroute. PEI JOB NO. 20032

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I'm gonna defer to Pete, we talked about this in the ESU meeting, and they recommended that tonight to come for approval and Pete I'll defer to you to talk a little bit about the project.

PETE SCHIEL:

As some of you may or may not know, there were several streetlights on the Court Street corridor between West Avenue and Fifth Avenue, that were in disrepair the bases were in bad shape. Both were in bad shape also to the point where we were concerned that some of these light poles may fall over and we didn't want to create any issues or accidents. So, we remove those light poles. We reached out to Neil's office, and we're going to continue with the historical lighting project. This project scope will be from West Avenue to Fifth Avenue on Court Street and that is what this is for. Now, keep in mind that this is for the labor to install these poles. To avoid additional markup from a contractor ESU will go ahead and purchase these poles independently from a local contractor, just to avoid that

markup. So, Neil Do you have anything else that you'd like to add.

NEIL PIGGUSH:

This is a basically as Pete described this is addressing lighting that has either been depleted or dilapidated on Court Street at various intersections we have submitted to IDOT and they provided comments. The resolution for that permit approval is later on in the agenda. We have analyzed the photometrics on Court Street so we are upgrading that as well from even when these lights were operable. So I think that the photometrics on Court Street are gonna be much better. Even when the current lights that were just taken down were an operation but yeah this is just for the labor to install all of the foundations wiring sidewalk removal and replacement and ESU will be ordering these lights directly from a local supplier.

ALD COBBS:

What are photometrics?

NEIL PIGGUSH:

That is the measurement of the light, as it hits the ground. So we have to meet certain photometric requirements on State Route. Certain lighting levels that's another way to put photometrics is the lighting the measurement of the lighting levels as it is on the ground. So, as you see them like a graph, as you see the lighting levels while you're driving.

ALD CRAWFORD:

I have a questions Neil.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Crawford.

ALD CRAWFORD:

Thank you Mayor. Did this \$138,779.00 labor bill did that go out for bid and were there any local bidders and how many bidders were there, possibly? Thank you.

NEIL PIGGUSH:

So, as we do with every contract for \$25,000 we advertised twice for this job in the paper, and we only had two bidders, that was Utility Dynamics and Outsen Electric. Outsen Electric's bid was \$182,471.00 and Utility Dynamics was \$138,779.00,

ALD CRAWFORD:

Okay, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You're welcome. And we don't need any action on this correct because the ESU board approved it. Alderman Tall go ahead.

ALD TALL: Actually, we need a motion to approve at the City Council also. So, I will go ahead and make the motion to accept Utility Dynamic Corporation in the amount of \$138,779.00.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay. Just so the public knows this went to the ESU board we met at six o'clock tonight. They recommended to approve as though was coming out of the ESU funds and now the City Council will make a recommendation for the approval. Motion made by Alderman Tall.

ALD PRUDE: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Prude. Any further discussion? Okay. Hearing none, roll call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item.

ITEM 12E: Recommendation to Award a Bid in the Amount of \$781,717.00 to Kankakee Valley Construction Company for the Illinois Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Project on Court Street. PEI JOB NO. 18133

NEIL PIGGUSH: So, this project has been going on for a while. We awarded this contract, the city accepted the presented bids and the low bidder at the August 18th council meeting to Lyon Construction out of Pembroke. Since then, about last week they withdrew their bid from consideration, noting an error they made in their bid. So, being this as an IDOT contract it went to the next lowest bidder on a list, which was Kankakee Valley Construction and ask them if they would still honor their bid as well as the deadline which we've lost a month and a half since the initial letting so very grateful that Kankakee Valley is willing to take this project on with the current deadline, this is something that we want to get done obviously for the safety of kids and crossing guards in this location. So, they were, they were willing to take on the project with the original deadline which is end of February of 2021. So, we are recommending award of the contract Kankakee Valley Construction.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to approve that recommendation.

ALD TETTER: Your Honor, I so move that we accept the bid amount \$281,717 to Kankakee Valley construction Company for the Safe Routes to School project.

ALD OSENGA: I second that Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderman Osenga. Any discussion? Alderman Osenga?

ALD OSENGA: Yeah. Neil, do we know what the problem with their bid was?

NEIL PIGGUSH: They didn't get into specifics they noted some. The problem IDOT contracts is we don't get the detail on the bids for another two months after the letting. So, we are not able to analyze the bids in great detail. IDOT has all that information. It's their contract so they're ultimately the ones that are responsible for betting the bids. But they sited and issue with their electrical bid. So that's as much as I know.

ALD OSENGA: Okay, thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: And just to be clear, because I know there's a concern about funding for this. Neil, this is coming from where?

NEIL PIGGUSH: So, the City Council Mayor had originally authorized \$300,000.00 in MFT funds for this project back in, I believe it was June or May. So, we already have the money covered under the current resolution authorization and that will get reimbursed with the \$200,000.00 So, the city will be ultimately on the hook for an \$81,000 and MFT funds at this point.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, just wants to make sure I clarify that. Alright, we have a motion in a second. Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12F.

ITEM 12F: Recommendation to Accept Engineering Proposal from Piggush Engineering in the Amount of \$40,580.00 for the

North Schuyler Avenue Americans with Disabilities Act and Lighting Upgrades Project.

NEIL PIGGUSH:

This is for the grant that was just awarded to the city, the \$1.8 million grant. The city did not put up a match for this, but we had discussions, previously that ESU would fund the grant administration for this project. One of the requirements of the application is that there were pre-approved grant, administrators, administering the grant, which we were on the list of roughly 40 grant administrators in the state. Also, that will be required us to revise the plans from the previous project because we constructed portions of that project. Also, the water main project on the 200 block of North Schuyler has changed since we did the plans for that original Schuyler streetscape, we also have to incorporate the Transfer Center improvements from River Valley Metro which has kind of come to light in the last month or so. And then all of the activity or delivery or grant administration which is all of the environmental clearances the grantee reporting bidding going through a grant audit at the end of the grant, as well as closeout and recommendation of draws with the *(inaudible)* so there's quite a bit of things that we have to kind of update on the plans in order to get them ready. That's pretty much the scope of this proposal.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Neil. Motion to approve?

ALD LEWIS: So move Mayor

ALD BROWN: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderman Brown. Any discussion? Alderman Curtis?

ALD CURTIS: The funds for this, will this be paid out of ESU for this proposal that's in front of us?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Yes.

NEIL PIGGUSH: That's correct.

ALD CURTIS: Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other discussion. Roll Call. I'm sorry. Alderman Tall, Do you have a question?

ALD TALL: Yes, my concern is that we didn't discuss this at ESU but I'm good with doing it here. Just in the future. It would be better to bring it to ESU so it can be forwarded to the general counsel as a whole.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Pete, where are you?

NEIL PIGGUSH: I thought it was on yesterday's agenda that's my fault Alderman Tall.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Pete?

PETE SCHIEL: I'm okay with doing it here. But we will take note of that. Alderman Tall.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I have a motion and a second, right?

CLERK DUMAS: Lewis and Brown.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you. Any further discussion. Okay, we'll do a Roll Call.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSTAIN: Gall
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Abstention

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 12G and Item 12H

ITEM 12G: Recommendation to Issue Taxicab License to Walls Service Based on License and Franchise Committee Approval on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.

ITEM 12H: Recommendation to Issue Taxicab License to OnPoint Taxi Based on License and Franchise Committee Approval on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I'll go ahead and turn it over to our Chairman, Alderman Curtis.

ALD CURTIS: Thank you Mayor. I just want to give a couple comments. The license and franchise committee for both of these presentations and kind of give you a little bit of a background. Wall Services, there are set up for patients

through Medicaid, Medicare or even private pay patients that need rides that are doctors anywhere within Kankakee County. So, they're not going to be public at this point, they are only going to be for patients that need rides that need rides to their doctors. They have two drivers and one vehicle, their rate is \$7.06 which is a flat fee, plus 80 cents per mile, and they're picked up based on central times. The second application was from OnPoint Taxi. This will be more like a typical taxi service that you're familiar with. They will be operating from 5:00 A.M. till 9:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday, and 5:00 A.M. till 6:00 P.M. on Sunday. They have one driver and one vehicle. You can call them for rides to do shopping groceries or restaurant but they're also going to be catering to people that need rides to work and maybe their bus schedule isn't quite fitting their needs. What they've got is their rates will be \$7.00 one way, if it's in the city Kankakee \$8.00 to Bradley \$13.00 to Bourbonnais (*inaudible*) Momence. They will offer rides to Wilmington there are some major warehouses there that provide employment that's \$40.00, or \$50.00 if you need to go to Chicago. If a customer uses them on a multi-day basis, during the week they will give a discount. Again, so maybe be trying to go to work. If you use them three to four days a week, they'll give a 20% discount, five days a week, 25%, and if six days a week they will provide us 30% discount. Both of these were approved by a motion of five yays and zero against by the committee and to bring to full Council for review and vote.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: This is like retro Aldermen Curtis, taxicabs I'm sure some of our young people don't even know what we're talking about. The old school Uber and Lyft, so just for clarification on the second one OnPoint if they're taking you to Chicago that's \$50.00 is that one way?

ALD CURTIS: That is one way (*inaudible*) Midway or O'Hare Airports a or Chicago whatever it's a \$50.00 one way each of those rates were one way.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you. Alright. If there are no objections I will combine Items 12G and 12H. Do we have a recommendation to approve both items?

ALD FAFORD: So move.

ALD CURTIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Faford and Seconded by Alderman Curtis. Any discussion on these two items? Alderman Osenga?

ALD OSENGA: Thank you Mayor, just a couple of quick questions. I assume they have to show the city they have proof of insurance and things like that. Do they do background checks on the drivers that they hire?

ALD CURTIS: Yes. This was a very detailed (inaudible) franchise debate. (inaudible) also needs approval by the police chief. There is a background requirement from the police department, their vehicles had to be inspected by state, they had to provide their driver's license proof of insurance. They also had to answer a questionnaire that didn't have any major moving violations and last couple years, whether it be DUI or something of that nature, and things of that nature so there was a very substantial checks and backgrounds that they had to go through before they could even bring it to Licensed Franchise Committee.

ALD OSENGA: Thank you very much. It's good

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Anjanita, I want to give you an opportunity if you had anything you wanted to add?

CLERK DUMAS: Just add to, before we were submitted the license in franchise they basically made sure we have all the documents prior to going to License and Franchise. They even have to advertise with a Daily Journal. I just didn't include the background check because we (inaudible) information to be sent out to the media. We didn't want the background information online.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG Absolutely.

ALD OSENGA: Okay, thank you very much.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: All right. Any further discussion on those items. Roll Call. Do we...

CLERK DUMAS: Motion by Faford and Second by Curtis.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay.

CLERK DUMAS:

AYES: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
(14) Ayes (0) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item I. We have no Appointments. Moving on to Item 13 Motions and Resolutions.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 13A:

Re-Proclamation of Declaration of Local State of Emergency (*Information Only*).

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We're still under the Restore Illinois Phase 4 Plan. The Governor's State of Emergency. I will mention that we did come out of mitigation last week last Friday as a 5:00 P.M. I was really happy to see that. So, our bar owners and restaurants, establishments can be open with capacity limits. And there's also a business interruption grant program for business owners. I provided that to all of the council members and department heads in a weekly update on Friday so feel free to share that with our local establishments.

ITEM 13B:

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for Gift and Acceptance of Real Estate at 228 East River Street in Kankakee.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So, as you all know, part of the riverfront master plan incorporates four and a half miles of Riverfront property. We have acquired two properties at River and Schuyler. The council already approved the purchase of those properties. I know it's been brought up several times if anyone has donated for this project. This is a property donation by Joe and Scott Franco for this property that allows us three contiguous parcels at the core of Schuyler at East River, Neil Do you have anything to add? I noticed was tied to one of the applications. I think our OSLAD grant application.

NEIL PIGGUSH:

That's correct, Mayor. So, this is the completion will not the final completion, but this is the final piece of that grant that we received from the Department of Natural Resources back in late 2018. After going through all the environmental clearances and the appraisal process. We are

now at the end here to accept the donation which will suffice as the city's match on this grant.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

ALD LEWIS: So move Mayor.

ALD COBBS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderman Cobbs. Any discussion? Okay, Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown *(need to leave after this vote)*, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
NAYS: Tall
(13) Ayes (1) Nays

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I want to thank Joe and Scott Franco for donating the property to the city of Kankakee and I also want to thank our Kankakee Riverfront Implementation Team, which has now dissolved. We have a non for profit the Kankakee River for Society members also, chaired by Stacy Wilkin of our CVB who, in partnership with Hitchcock Design Group. Our city team ECDA led a series of stakeholder meetings last week and public outreach to get input from the community about this project. So I just want to say thank you to everybody. It was a long week last week, a lot of work. We appreciate the donation. Moving on to Item 13C.

ITEM 13C: Resolution Authorizing a Request for a Permit from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Court Street Gateway Enhancement Project.

NEIL PIGGUSH: We've received IDOT approval on the work that we are proposing in conjunction with the East Court Street Gateway Signage Project, which I believe that was that contract was approved the last meeting so it was pretty timely to get this approval right now this is a resolution that the city just has to pass acknowledging that they applied for the permit will comply with all of the requirements of the permit.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Neal May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

ALD TETTER: So move Your Honor.

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: I second Madam Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Tetter and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Any discussion on this item. Hearing none, Roll Call please

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Brown
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Moving on to Item 13D.

ITEM 13D: Resolution Authorizing the Request for a Permit from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Court Street Lighting Upgrades and Reroute Project.

NEIL PIGGUSH: This is the approval we received at the same time from IDOU for our permit requests for the lighting upgrades for the contract that was just approved Utility Dynamics. So this is the same thing as the previous item and just the different project resolution for the permit request.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We have a motion to approve?

ALD TALL: So move.

ALD LEWIS: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion by Alderman Tall and Seconded by Alderwoman Lewis. Any discussion? Roll Call please.

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Curtis, Cobbs, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Swanson, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Prude
ABSENT: Brown
(13) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Item 14 we did not have a need for an Executive Session. Item 15, there's no action. Item 16 City Council Comments starting with Alderman Curtis.

ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMAN COMMENTS

ALD CURTIS:

I want to start with and maybe this is gonna be talked about later and department heads, but I think we'd be remiss tonight as a full council that we're gathered. It was great to see that there was a community gathering on Friday night to discuss the shootings, I believe there was eight to nine aldermen, and alderwomen that were there that night to hear ideas to different things. As we're together tonight, I think it's something we should continue to discuss ideas solutions, not just ransom problems but I think we're here tonight I think we should discuss it, whether it's coming out of Mayor's comments or the Chiefs comments but before we leave I would like us to throw some ideas out or whatever we can have some discussions, I think the public's waiting to hear from us as a full city council and Mayor and I hate for us to get off tonight before we do that, so I'll leave that if that's going to be brought up.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay.

ALD CURTIS:

The second thing comment I'd like to make is, there was the amendment the Chapter 2 tonight. I just want to make some comments on I just don't think this is the right time. In fact, not that I don't think this is not the right time for us to be looking for pay increases to any elected officials Alderman, City Clerk, Mayor. We're dealing with probably one of the most difficult financial situations that we have since the bubble in 2008. We've already seen that we've had a project our budget with less sales tax ,gaming tax coming in because of the shutdowns that we had back in March, April, May and June. In fact, we haven't even seen a gaming revenue yet because it didn't start till July we will see later. And now we just had recently our bars and restaurants and small businesses just had a weeks of a not complete shutdown but limiting their abilities operate at full potential. We don't know if that would be forthcoming again or not, it makes it difficult that we do know that they're talking across the country that just 20% of all businesses closing their doors. We thought this year would be difficult to budget, have a balanced budget. I think next year is going to be even more difficult when we start looking at some of these numbers are coming in. Very well, this is not the time when there's a lot of people out of work we're not unemployment is high. When we need more money and probably not probably again in public safety

areas. This is just not the time. I don't think there's any time that we should be asking for any of these increases we get paid very well for our positions we could pay nearly double of any other Aldermen or Trustees in the County. I just don't think it should even be something we should consider. I'm gonna leave it with this is we need to serve the people right now. We don't need to be self-serving.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Curtis. Alderwoman Lewis?

ALD LEWIS:

I would like to thank Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Alderman Prude of the 1st Ward for letting me be a part of their Community Unity Back to School Giveaway and they honored two people actually three people. Travis Miller and Kent Wade for their outstanding achievements and help within the city. So I really appreciate you two, for that. Kris Schmitz, I'm going to miss you, thank you for all of your help that you've done to help me. Let me see what else, Fortitude. I just want to let it be known. Personally, I don't have a problem with it, but as an Alderwoman, on the Riverfront Society on Economic Development. I agree, I think this something for a residential area. I don't think the downtown is a great place for it. I have to respect the Alderman of the board on their decisions. I reached out to people within my ward and I only had one person that personally talked to me for support, I had four people that were no and about 20 people that were indifferent. So, I could make a decision based off of my personal preference. I had to put on my Alderman hat and say no.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderwoman Lewis. Alderman Crawford?

ALD CRAWFORD:

Yes, Thank you Mayor. I would also like to just share a little bit about before the Fortitude situation. A couple of years ago, they came to a church in the Third Ward. We had a lot of constituents that lived around at church and had a lot of concerns of them being there. We held a meeting with fortitude with the church with the constituents. And after that meeting, everyone felt a lot better. Two years later, there was no incidents or anything at that church so if we could get that back on the agenda for them to open up there, that our next meeting that would be great. second comment I would have to agree with also with Chris Curtis. Now is not the time to be given any raises out for city officials. Matter of fact, I would during all this coal but in the tough times we are having. I would almost like to see

the city council members take a 25% decrease in pay to help out and show that we are being fiscally responsible and looking out for our constituents. So, thank you and have a good night.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you Alderman Crawford. Alderwoman Malone Marshall?

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you Alderwoman Lewis for acknowledging our event. It was a great event, and we were able to help a lot of people on Sunday. And I just want to thank everybody that donated to the event. And I also wanted to say that Fortitude, and the homeless are deep on my heart and I would not just not care about the homeless, but it is a concern of mine, as far as the location, and I would like to see it be somewhere else at this time, and also, as far as the raises for the City Council, I am deeply against any raises at this time. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Alderwoman Malone Marshall. Alderman Cobbs?

ALD COBBS: First, I'd like to say to Kris Schmitz, I'm going to deeply miss you. You surely helped me with my first year to navigate some of the questions and concerns I have with dealing with institutions coming from as a resident so Kris I'm gonna miss you tremendously. You always made me feel very comfortable even with my dumb questions, I guess I'm going to have to lean on (*inaudible*) little bit more now. Fortitude breaks my heart to you know as a Christian man. As a Christian African American man I'll even add that I realized that people who look like me I'm considered homeless more often, and it breaks my heart that we weren't able to come to a conclusion. But I also agree that the city in the downtown location is heading in a direction where it may be stigmatized. I'm sorry to the Fortitude people, if they feel like that that's just my personal opinion. To Mike Prude and Cherry Malone Marshall, outstanding event in recognizing the back to school to the kids. I think Travis Miller and Kent Wade and their contributions to this city are just insurmountable. The gun violence, I heard a lot of things, and I was there, even though I was, they may be forget or didn't notice where I was and didn't mention my name, I was there. And I just want the public to know that I was there. I'm deeply concerned about gun violence. Also, I think it was

Attorney Jim Rowe that said that most city people committing these crimes as teenagers, African Americans between 16 and 24. There were many groups there they're also asked for mentors. So if we're going to get off our *(inaudible)* there are also places that we can go to mentor these young men. And that's all.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Cobbs. And just so you know, just to be clear Fortitude to still has the ability to provide shelter, just not in a permanent location downtown. Okay, Alderman Brian?

ALD O'BRIEN:

Thank you. I've got two comments sort of on the far extremes in terms of seriousness. The first is a request for any feedback about the possibility of trick or treating and Halloween. I have a neighbor who does a very elaborate sort of big events where we typically would close the street so we were just talking over the weekend and he wonder just what the city's plans may be so typically at the first meeting in October, he would request a street closure. So, just so we could have some communication in the next week or so about what our plans might be. And secondly, obviously public safety is a huge issue all the time, especially now. Meeting Friday night was well done. So I echo everyone's sentiments with thanking JJ Hollis and others who organize it. You know, Mike Cobbs you mentioned the need for mentors. What stood out to me was Jim Rowe said he needs 300 mentors right now he has 30. So in terms of what can we do right now is volunteer to be a mentor for his program and others like that. Public Safety also came up extensively at the strong neighborhood house meetings on Saturday morning, that's the partnership between the City, and the School District, and United Way, talking with neighbors about what how, what is the priority or what should be the priority for that house and loud and clear the sentiment was not surprisingly, first public safety, can we use it to help protect the neighborhoods and help the residents and the neighbors. I fear that we're approaching or at a crisis moment here. So whatever we can do to navigate through and it is critical and important. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Alderman O'Brien. Alderman Tetter?

ALD TETTER:

Thank you Your Honor. I'd like to bid my farewells to Ms. Schmitz. You know, we're gonna really miss you and we'll

probably come down there in Kentucky to have a reunion with you in the near future. I want to just touch base about the Fortitude, and the homelessness. I think that there are here on the north side, and the east side there's a lot of vacant properties, vacant lots. There's a tremendous amount of potential for a homeless shelter or a facility to be established in these residential areas. I just did not believe as the chair of economic development that putting this in the area and which we're trying to revitalize. I think we can find a better location for that. I too will echo the sentiment of Alderwoman Malone Marshall and I think it was Alderman Curtis and Alderman Crawford about the raises. Given all that's going on, I think we certainly need to look at ways to trim. And at least, at best, hold, where we're at until such time as our financial circumstances improve. And lastly, I'd like to thank Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Alderman Prude for the back to school event, it was well attended very well organized. The community really enjoyed it, and looking forward to working with you guys again, if you would have me. That's it, your honor. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Tetter. Alderman Prude?

ALD PRUDE:

I just have a few things to say first of all I want to thank my seatmate Alderwoman Malone Marshall for taking the lead in our back to school giveaway, which was a great event. I want to thank all the Aldermen and Alderwomen that came out to be a part of it. I want to thank all those people that donated as well to the event, which went great. We had a nice time out there, we have a nice band, a young people band up there which really did a great job for the first time ever playing in front of a lot of people. Also, to Fortitude, I really, really, my heart goes out. Some people don't know my background but my background dealt with a lot of homeless people in a lot of other situations that also had in my life that I know that this is something that's well needed but my sentiment is the same. We need to put it in a place a little different than where it is, but I am fully in support of what they're trying to do. Because me, not only a person that was in the streets, but also as the minister, I know that we need to help any and everybody that we can. So I really just hope that we can find the right place for this. And as the Mayor has already said, we haven't stopped doing what you are already doing but we have to find a permanent place for you guys as well. So again I want to thank

everybody that helped us out with our back to school bash. And that's all I got.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you. Alright, we will move to Department Head Comments and Updates. We will start with Neil.

NEIL PIGGUSH:

Thank you Mayor, Several updates just gonna give everyone (*inaudible*) projects and we're at where we're headed. Everyone has probably seen the work going on Kennedy Drive. IDOT released a public notice that they will be doing a milling and resurfacing over the next two months at night. They've started the milling at the very north end of the project and Armor Road. They're about finished up with a lot of the sidewalks and concrete work. So you'll probably start to see a lot of the milling and resurfacing and detector work start to happen all indications are they're going to try to get that resurface this construction to season so let's hope the weather holds. Also, we had a WebEx meeting today with IDOT for a status update on Exit 312. Sounds like they're going to try to wrap up Phase 1 Engineering this calendar year with public input happening. In October, throughout the whole month of October, so all the affected residents around that project will be getting mailings. You can go to the IDOT's website to look at materials, and also, I believe you can provide feedback through the website. If anybody in the 7th Ward, or in that affected area know someone who cannot get access to the materials online or enter through internet access. Please let me know, or the Mayor's office no and we can get you that those materials that those people so they can see, or if they're having trouble reading the exhibits I know not everybody looks at exhibits of interchange improvements all the time so it's foreign stuff to a lot of people but we want to make sure everyone gets the information and gets their questions answered. So, Hobbie Avenue, we had a meeting today on that we'll be doing kind of a modified public meeting, probably starting in November, going through to the middle of December for affected residents along that project route as well to finish Phase 1 Engineering and submit that project report and get plan approval by the end of the year with IDOT. So we're going to probably be leaning on the representatives from the 7th and 1st Wards to maybe put our heads together and

what the best way to do public outreach over there just to make sure that we get information to everybody along that route and they fully understand what the scope of the project is and how it's going to affect their personal property or you know how it's gonna affect them during construction we just want to make sure we get all the feedback from the residents and get questions answered. So that way we don't have any hurt feelings once the project starts we want to make sure everyone gets all their questions answered prior to that project starting. Brookmont Boulevard, we had a status update meeting with v3, that is moving and it's continuing to move forward. I think their plan is to submit to IDOT, CN and the Illinois Commerce Commission next month sometime by the end of the month as an initial submittal to start to get some feedback and start that process. We are doing appraisals on some of the smaller land acquisitions and easements we have to do for that project so that is moving forward. It'll probably start to pick up momentum through the winter and spring of next year. Eastridge Drive we're moving forward on as well that's the road project tied to the Ricky Rockets development. The one thing that IDOT did say today when we gave them an update that the city was constructing that road is that they thought that would help move things along into Phase 2 Engineering showing that the city is making a commitment to doing that project because that was a condition of the approval for the previous Ricky Rockets development on to connect that road up to East Gate Parkway. So, they thought that was a very positive update from the city. As Alderman Curtis alluded to, Nicor is rerouting their gas main on Jeffrey so we can complete the improvements on the alley between seventh and eighth kind of a complicated reroute for their gas mains because they have two of them on the north side of the road so that's what's been taking so long. MFT streaming is moving along hopefully we'll be starting to do patching work they're about finished with the concrete work, and maybe in the next two to three weeks street maintenance program will be buffed up. And the Safe Routes project was approved tonight so we'll be moving at lightning speed to get that project into construction as soon as possible and IDOT is on board with facilitating and expediting the approvals for contracts and shop drawings to get that project moving forward. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Neil. Barbie?

BARBIE BREWER-WATSON: We are about nine days away from the end of the census. We have a lot of work to do. Just to let you know where we're at right now is self-response rate is 57.5% I don't know what the enumerator count is the door to door. They weren't door to door for about a week this past month, due to some of the mitigation but they're still back out now they went back out. They'll be back out for the rest of this month. And we are doing everything we can to try to get the word out so there, there's been thousands of mailers, there's been a, you know, several events we have to this week one tomorrow night from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Edison. And we have another one on Thursday from five to seven in pioneer park to just get the word out share the information that you see share that with your neighborhood and ask your constituents to share it with their neighbors. But we'll be out there we've got a couple more events this weekend and then into next week but we will keep going until the end. We're doing the best we can. So, since I can't talk about it enough. If anybody has any questions you can give me a call about that. I just want to say thank you to the ECDA Team, to the Riverfront Society, and to the Department Heads. Last week was a very busy week with just a lot of meetings around the riverfront and of course the census event. And I just really am grateful for everybody's extra time and attention and helping us out so that's really good public outreach we got great feedback I can't wait to share with you guys a report. But, that's the kind of public outreach that we that I would like to continue to do for all the projects that we do we got great, great feedback so I'm just more to come, but thank you guys. And then, Kris, I know you're on here tonight. I missed you already. I'll send me a private message, thinking about you. Thank Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alright and Barbie, I think we shared with the community that we had called a meeting. We went to the (*inaudible*) care meeting, and we've introduced the city of Kankakee Task Force on ending homelessness. So we've already started that work and Fortitude was there in representation and we'll be continuing to work with them. As we move forward.

BARBIE BREWER-WATSON: We're just now scheduling the first meeting so that. The research for that started last October and we've been working through the National League of Cities and through

some other organizations to learn from cities like Rockford, and Chattanooga how they have put together a comprehensive city strategy to make sure that the entire homeless population throughout the region would be served. So we're at the beginning stages of this and like I said we've been researching this since last year, and we just the timing isn't there right now but we are doing the work behind the scenes and when we're ready to really launch that task force and put together the plan and let the public know what the plan is. We'll get it out there, so thanks for, thanks for making a mention of it.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You're Welcome.

JAMES ELLEXSON: Thank you Mayor. I only have one comment. Kris, I wasn't here on Friday to say goodbye. I'm glad you came to the meeting so we can say good bye. You've been awesome. That's all I have. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you James. Pete?

PETE SCHIEL: Thank you Mayor. I just wanted to give everybody an update in the utility board we approved some new lighting for Riverstone Parkway by Walmart. So those fixtures will be ordered tomorrow. It may take six to eight weeks to get those in but we should see some nice lighting improvements in that area. Also Kris, I wish you well and it's been a pleasure working with you all these years. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thanks Pete. Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH KUBAL: I've just a quick update with the bonding timeline as I said I would give to everyone. I spoke with Bob Vail via email today, and he said that he did speak with S&P they're very backlogged right now, due to obviously these incredibly low rates, and everybody out to the market. So he said, that'll probably be mid-October. I suspect I will have a lot more information by our next meeting or if not for sure by the next budget meeting for sure to share with everybody. And of course I have to say. Best wishes to Kris we have said our goodbyes. I've only sat by her this whole time so it's going to be different. I'm looking forward to working with Mary Lou, and I just wish you the absolute best. Thank you

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Elizabeth. Chief Kosman?

CHIEF KOSMAN:

Evening Mayor. As discussed. We've had a very unusual number of the shootings in town this past month and unfortunately, two fatal shootings that occurred. One of them was on the 1300 block of East Maple, or where a subject of 27 year old subject, your own subject was shot on a Sunday. Around noon, and we were able to make an arrest on the identification of the offender, so that we arrested him last, last week. Unfortunately, again we had another shooting last night, around, 11:00 P.M. in the evening, were subject on 600 block in North Nelson was in a car with some other subjects and an unknown offender unknown at this time, walked up to the car and started shooting and ended up fatally shooting a 17 year old subject that had just moved into Kankakee from actually Puerto Rico, but then they moved in Chicago for a year, or I mean in January and moves came into town. So, as he was a someone that we were not familiar with. And we don't know who that suspect is, at this time, but our detectives are actively working on that. We are having a number of tactics or whatever they're trying to address this terrible issue. One of them is of course you know about the shotspotter that's in the works and can't come soon enough. We're also working on how to reassign personnel in order to get the best people in the right positions and to help us like temporarily assigning our director patrol unit to our detective unit to increase the communication even though there is but we work side by side with them trying to get the persons involved the shootings under arrest. We are also working on our detectives and them have been proactively, not just responding to calls but being proactive and going out checking locations, and during the times where there are shootings, the problem is the shootings have been happening from 930 in the morning through the evening. So it is kind of hard but when we are able to identify any pattern, anything that we are being proactive in going out during those times and to those locations, one of those incidents were on the 400 block of Lincoln which last week we did. Officers and detectives were actually out investigating a shooting and have been in the area where they notice a subject with a gun 16 year old that ran into a house on the 400 block of South Lincoln that's the subject of a chronic nuisance ordinance that we've been working on for a while, and we were able to obtain a search warrant based on what they observe, we went inside that, and we

were able to find the person that ran in there with a, with the handgun, which it dropped while he was fleeing from the officers where we picked it up. Then we were also able to find a subject that we've been looking for since last year where that bus shooting happened back in September of last year, he was hiding in a crawl space in the basement of the house behind some panel that day and above were able to take down they saw was loosen. They were able to find him in that location. So we were able to arrest somebody that we thought was instrumental and a leader in the, in the gang problem. We're addressing the issue as much as we can. I want to remind everyone that on September 24th at one o'clock, there was a hearing at the courthouse for the house on the 400 block of South Lincoln, that have been the object of our chronic nuisance ordinance for the past year. So hopefully with that hearing, we'll be able to get some good results in reference to that.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Chief. DC Hunt are you on? Okay, I know there was a comment that came in tonight about a nuisance ordinance and that can be that process to be started by the city or the State's Attorney's office. I have spoken with DC Hunt. Over the past couple days looks like are you back DC Hunt? When the state's attorney specifically has a case against a particular subject is been more beneficial to work with the State Attorney's office because they already have a case against the person. So the nuisance ordinance can be that process can be implemented by the city or the State's Attorney. And I just wanted to share that. Tomora are you with us?

TOMORA NELSON: Yes, I am. Okay. I have nothing but I just want to say Kris, I've enjoyed working with you and I wish you well and if you ever need anything, just give me a call. That's all I have.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thanks Tomora. Okay, Mike Hoffman?

MIKE HOFFMAN: Thanks Mayor, nothing specific to report but I'll echo Barbies census, census, census, comments. It really is important for the city. And also, everybody's appreciation for Kris has been wonderful working with you, Kris, thanks.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Jasmyne?

JASMYNE HUMBLE:

Thank you Mayor. I just want to remind everyone that we do have a voter registration day tomorrow. That will be from one to 3:00P.M. in the Kankakee Public Library, on the first floor. I want to thank the library and the Kankakee County Clerk's process for partnering with us for this event, and hopefully we can do it again, we seem to have a lot of shares for this one. The Bike Ride Part 2 is also this Saturday, it's not too late to sign up for that. But this session will kick off at 7:00 P.M. but we are asking that if you need lights installed on your bike, please arrive before 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Who's hosting that Jasmyne?

JASMYNE HUMBLE:

United Kankakee Police Department and is our Stop the Violence Community Bike Ride. And then possible if you need bike lights installed come before 7:00 P.M. That is at Bird Park and then you can register online on our city's website. And also on the Hispanic Heritage, it is a fan of heritage man so we are hosting a celebration socially distancing outdoors from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Train Depot on Saturday, October 3rd. Barbie already talked about census so I want to cover that. And then I just want to say, along with everyone else that Kris, it has been a pleasure working with you. I really do appreciate how positive you've always been, and how you're always willing to answer any questions that we may have. I will miss you, but happy retirement. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Jazmyne. I think I got all the department here tonight. Okay, Chris I'm going to turn it over to you at this time.

KRIS SCHMITZ:

Thank you Mayor, I would just like to thank you and the Aldermen for allowing me to serve the city of Kankakee for these past 11 years. Even before I was employed with the City, I did lots of projects with the Attorney Power. So I felt like I was already part of the family. I love my job. I love the people I work with. Lynne and Emma, they made my job easy to do. So, I thank everybody for that. I will miss all of you. I've made lifelong friends that I will treasure. So, thank you for the memories. Thanks.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You did great Chris. I just want to thank you. As a new Mayor coming in and learning about some of the work that you do for your patience in teaching me about some of the

work that you do. And for always being willing to roll up your sleeves whenever I had a question or we needed hands on deck, you know when we hit you know demands that we had to meet and so forth. For the city, you always were right there to roll up your sleeves and help out so I know you love the city. I know your husband makes jokes that you probably love the city more than him. She's officially gone and here she is on the city council meeting so he's gonna tease her. But we wish you and Gary the best, and hope you are safe travels. I know you're going back and forth to Kentucky right now. Hope you travel safely and that you enjoy your retirement and we hope you do keep in touch and let us know how you're doing periodically. So thank you for your service. Alright. Okay, so my updates I'm gonna start with the little things and then I'll build up to the bigger ones. So first of all, again, I wanted to thank everybody to help with the riverfront the survey is still available so if you have not taken it. We encourage you to please give some input and encourage others to do so. Jewel should be pulling permits. Jewel in Kankakee, I'm so excited. I kind of get after them, and just talk to them about the riverfront project, and the fact that this store hasn't had any upgrades in decades, and that they really you know I'm encouraging them to really step it up because we're revitalizing this area. So I did get a message from the Regional Manager. Tomora, have you heard from Jewel?

TOMORA NELSON:

Yes, they have applied, they have. Yes, they have contacted us about permits,

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So they're supposed to be doing about a half a million dollars in renovation at our Kankakee Jewel is much needed. I think they've already started doing some work on the lights, Mike Hoffman and I talked to them about the appearance outside and just some of the things that were really give it a facelift over there and you know they assured me that they want to be good partners in our community and so this is one of the ways that they can really do that because there hadn't been investment in that store in years. I just wanted to share that great news with everybody as well and they have pulled their permits. I just wanted to touch quickly. I think Pete shared, we did close on the LaBeau Property on North Harrison that's going to allow us to expand the city's campus is my vision. Because you'd have you know of course the Administrative Office on South Indiana Public Safety here on Oak. Now Harrison

is going to have an improvement with our city, our offices people coming out of the Space Center in the 1st Ward, and then the bus transfer station and the streetscape extending down a Schulyer. So we really are starting to see a nice expansion and some redevelopment on the north side of Kankakee and expanding the city's campus. So I just want to share that. In regard to the salary ordinance I just wanted to say that this is not about being self-serving. The spirit of this is to address equity and fairness for the work that people do. It's on the agenda because the Illinois Compiled Statutes, which is 65ILCS5/3.1-50-10 is related to addressing salaries. So, it requires that there has to be a change, 180 days prior to the next time. So that's why it's on the agenda now. The city of Kankakee has 300 employees, and most places around us have a city administrator or city manager in the city of Kankakee under the example of the Mayor's office the Mayor is the Chief Executive Officer and is handling all of the functions of a city manager and the Mayor. So if you look and I will share this with the council so you have this documentation. The city administrator in the village of Bradley makes \$110,000, the city administrator in Bourbonnais makes \$117,900. In addition to the fact that there hasn't been an increase in the base in 12 years. There also has been a change in the jobs. So, the Clerk's office no longer has responsibility for FOIA's or Safety for us are handled by the legal team now Mary Lou that used to be Kris and safety is being handled safety committee and safety tasks are being handled by HR. What that means is that James is HR Director is looking at ways that we can improve how we can keep ourselves safe, reduce accidents, reduce risk, thus reducing our work comp insurance premiums as such. So, also since 2008 additional responsibilities, have been added. There was no video gaming, under the Mayor's office there was no cannabis and the Mayor's office, and the Mayor is now the video gaming commissioner and the Cannabis Commissioner, I think, you know, for the Council and everybody that serves, none of us had the expectation of social media and meetings and all these other things that are required. So that's why it was put on the agenda because of the spirit of equity and fairness in terms of paying people a livable wage and it is a full time job it's not a part time job, both previous Mayors have publicly noted that this is a full time job. So, in terms of the Clerk, we did, I did propose making that full time to add some additional support to that office, to the other departments, removing

the stipends and then Alderman Brown mentioned that there was an extra stipend for some of the committees like Public Safety and Budget and he had indicated that he spoke with previous Mayor Green, and that those should have been taken out. I will note that this Council none of those committee chairs have taken that extra stipend, to my knowledge, since I've been in office. And so that was an adjustment that was made as well. I provided the total compensation, so that you can see that, for example in our code office we have Code Personnel making anywhere from \$42,000 to \$62,000. So I just wanted to note that, and then getting to the meeting that was held on Friday. I have been talking with our police department. We've been talking a lot about what's going on in the city. So, I first of all, want to extend my condolences to the families who have been impacted by gun violence recently. There have been a number of people, and I do make the effort to reach out to those families. Chief contacted me after midnight this morning to tell me about the shooting on 600 South Nelson. Needless to say very upset. The community did have a meeting last Friday I was there, several of our city council members were there, several of our city team members was there. So, there was a strong presence of the city, because of course, we are concerned about this issue. I just want to say one thing that I'm hearing there's a narrative about blaming the previous Mayor for gun violence. I did not blame the previous Mayor for gun violence and to my knowledge, no one on our city council did. What I did criticize about a comment that she made was that these when she was asked about gun violence in the city of Kankakee her comment was, these people have no values. There is no one person in our city that can fix this by themselves. And so, when you say people have no values they do have values. People have basic needs and if you know anything about human behavior social issues. All of us have basic needs, we need to be fed, we need to be loved, we need to feel safe, we need shelter, there's certain things that all of us need. Sometimes when families are stressed and they don't have support or there's trauma or unhealthy conditions going on. People will seek to get those needs met in an unhealthy way and that's what we're seeing with some of our young people. So, again, it was not blaming the Mayor, I was critical of saying, these people have no values they do have values, and sometimes it's a gang that provides some protection and support, sometimes it's a gang that feeds them and clothes them and meets

those basic needs. It's not a healthy way of doing it. It's not the way most of us would do it. But it's a way for them to get their needs met. So, with that being said, I just wanted to clarify that. I think Alderman Cobbs had a call to action. Jim Rowe mentioned, you know we have a number of initiatives, they have started in the last few years in response to gun violence. So, when you ask what's being done to address public safety. Jim Rowe's office our State's Attorney created a program. I think its called Jump Kankakee and he indicated on Friday that he has 30 mentors and he needs 300. So instead of people sitting on social media, attacking other people and pointing the fingers, I would urge you to really reflect on how you can be helpful in this situation. I've met with the chief. I have addressed the feedback I heard from the meeting there was some people to say we used to have officers on a beat. I think that is important, because people get to know the officer and the officer gets to know the community, they get to know the neighborhood, they get to know the Alderwoman Malone Marshall lives in that house on Hobbie, and if I see somebody else over there. I need to probably be checking out to see what's going on. So, I do support that and I had a meeting with the Chief today to talk about that. Also, in terms of strategies, we are doing outreach to the community someone I think misinterpreted my comment Friday, that the police tend to be reactive we call them when something happens, we call them when there's an emergency or crisis, and we are working to be more proactive, and build relationships. That was a common thing that we heard that we need to build relationships and the big people want to see the police be more proactive. So, events such as the bike ride or Kankakee United is partnering with the police. Those are the types of things that we've been trying to do that we have been doing to build a relationship in the community. This event was sparked by public interest, wanting to know when the next bike ride was going to be. So that is our activity this month for Kankakee United. In response, in terms of coming up with strategy we created the Kankakee Unite initiative to address gun violence with our youth ages 16 to 24 African American males. That is because when we look at data, 83% of all gun violence in the city of Kankakee is happening with African American males, and Chief Kosman can probably tell you, and Deputy Chief Hunt when they call me and tell me something happens, I always say, what's the age, because they usually fall in that

age group. So, we are being responsive, of course, we've been restricted a lot because of COVID-19. We can't physically get in a room with kids and give them a hug, some of them probably need a hug, but we are we have still been doing things every month and Linh has been leading that from my office. So, this month is the bike ride with the partnership with the police department. We've also partnered with the School District for their \$500,000 Safety Grant, which Elizabeth has been administering. That was to help them get equipment into the wards and at the schools, to improve public safety cameras and those types of things. They also have been impacted by COVID. Elizabeth had to file an extension for the School District because they haven't been able to get all of the equipment ordered and installed yet. We've worked on it found someone at the meeting talked about traffic making sure that police officers are really slowing people down and stopping cars. If they're violating traffic because they may be guns in the cars. So, we have made a number of improvements in terms of installing traffic signage to slow down traffic. I've worked closely with Neil our engineer, in our traffic committee on that. Then our Strong Neighborhood House is a partnership between the School District and the United Way, that is undergoing at this time. They just recently are starting to get things going. I spoken with Gloria Kennedy who oversees the house, they're ordering furniture to have to get some repairs, and that sort of thing and we targeted the 2nd Ward because that's the Ward that has the most gun violence. So, the Strong Neighborhood Home is in the 2nd Ward. Some additional things, I've reached out to Com Ed. Pete and I have spoken with Lisa Aprati who's our Government Liaison and we will need to pinpoint where the shootings are happening with our police department and see if Com Ed, can put in a work order to see if it would be appropriate to put in additional lighting. I don't have a cost I don't know what that would be yet, but I have reached out to her about that. In terms of Capital, we are looking to go to the market as Elizabeth stated in the next couple of weeks on the wish list for the police department was body cams, so that the police are protected the residents are protected, hopefully to establish more trust, and license plate readers so when someone is driving away, we have technology that can detect the license plate and track them down. Some of the other things I want to mention some people are really sensitive right now and law enforcement. I want you all to know that I support the police department.

I support good police, just start our support good public works workers, I support good firefighters. However, the people that are having some issues, and not doing their jobs appropriately, are going to be held accountable. There's some videos that have been circulating where officers have allowed the public to fight. It is unacceptable. I want to be clear that all of us are accountable, and if you work in the city of Kankakee whether you like me or not, whether you like your chief or not, or any of the other leadership, you get a paycheck twice a month and you have a responsibility and an obligation to serve this community. There have been several reports that are people are called into my office talking to Linh, people are emailing me, people spoke about it at the meeting on Friday, that officers, take either alone time to show up, which that could be a number of things because we only have a certain number of officers, but even showing up when people are harming each other, they're allowing it to happen and that is unacceptable. So, I've been very clear with the leadership in the police department, people have to be held accountable, including our police officers. So, if you don't like to working here, let's have a conversation about making the transition that works for all of us, because if you do work here, most of you don't live here, and you need to you need to serve and protect this community. This is unacceptable. The other thing. this comment about defunding the police and I think a lot of police officers and law enforcement are quite frankly, mad about that. I am not in support of defunding the police if it means that we're going to dismantle our police department I don't believe in that. We need to have a police department. Defunding in terms of a policy initiative, is talking about your budget, which most municipalities their budgets, most of the budget is the police department salaries, pensions, equipment, that sort of thing. So, in terms of looking at the budget to see if there's a better way to invest our money, then yes, I support that. I do not support dismantling and not having a police department in the city of Kankakee. So, I just want to be clear, I've said that publicly I'm saying it again on record. Again, I support good police officers, all of us do. Some of the other things we're doing hiring practices we are making the effort to diversify our police department because we are a 60% minority community; 40% African American and 20% Hispanic. It is important for relationship building and trust that you have people that look like the people that you're that you are serving and protecting. It's just human

behavior that people trust people that look like them so, it's important that we continue to diversify and to build relationships. So those are some of the things that we've been addressing in terms of equipment in terms of strategies, why we're doing what we're doing, there will be some changes coming in the next month. The Chief has met the public safety to address these ATV's. He's looked at an ordinance that he's talked to public safety about, they were comfortable with that. We've had a conversation with public safety about a Civilian Review Board, I was recommending a person from each of our seven boards. So, that work that came from public safety will be moving for what are leading teams so that we can get those items adopted on the agenda. So again, I want to extend my condolences to the families. I want to say this too, there was a gentleman that spoke at that meeting on Friday and I, I want it to be clear to him right but he was saying that he was the concealed carry owner, and that he will go break up a fight. And I just want you all to understand we have a dynamic in the city right now, people want more police, more police, more enforcement, more police, there's a cost to that. The other thing is that we have to be mindful that we are a minority community, the majority is minority, and what our young people are seeing every day, or frequently in our media is brown people being harmed by the police. I'm not saying our police are doing that. Thank God we haven't had an incident like George Floyd but that is traumatic, and to see that over and over again is problematic. So, I can't have people like this person that spoke saying that I'm going to come out of my house with not because I'm concealed carry and I break up fights. That reminds me of what happened to Trayvon Martin in Florida when George Zimmerman was an overzealous resident who was told to stand down from the dispatchers, and he decided that he was going to intervene, because of his perspective of Trayvon Martin who was now dead. So we have to balance that. I just want you all to know that these are complex issues, and we are working to address these issues and if you have any solutions any ideas, please contact me and Chief and Deputy Chief, so that we can incorporate that as we move forward. So, that is all that is all that I have. Thank you guys. I keep saying that we're going to have a short meeting agendas gonna be short and things just keep adding up but thank you all, and I will take the motion to adjourn at this time.

ALD CURTIS: Mayor, can we talk about this some more in open discussion?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: It's 9:45 P.M. Alderman Curtis. So please...

ALD CURTIS: If we have to stay until midnight, it's okay. This is important. We've got to react now. So let's, have an open discussion while all 14 of us are here, the Mayor's here, the Police Chief's is here, the Deputy Chief.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: How about we set a special meeting, the Council can come, since it's 9:45 P.M.

ALD CURTIS: *(inaudible)* I have ideas, we all have ideas, we just need to...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We are planning **to** do a meeting also October 29th so we can set one before that and then do the one October 29th as well.

ALD CURTIS: I'd like to see a special meeting in the next 5-7 days, 10 days.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you for telling me your preference.

ALD CURTIS: We are here, we need to talk. We need to react, I understand his long-term goals but there's also short-term goals that we should talk about. We just, we have a camera that's not working, if we need to allocate funds for that we need to allocate funds.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: That's gonna come from capital.

ALD CURTIS: But I mean, we need to do it now.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay.

ALD CURTIS: We spent \$167,000.00 on an ambulance we can spend \$8,000.00 to fix the camera.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, we can put it on the agenda and do it for the next meeting, and Elizabeth, we'll talk with her.

ALD CURTIS: Let's do a special meeting and get it done now.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I just proposed doing a special meeting Alderman Curtis.

ALD CURTIS: I'm not trying to be, I'm just saying the public wants to hear us work together. And that's what I'm trying to do. We're all here to...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: That's why I just proposed a special meeting. Now, I'm going to ask for a motion to adjourn. We will set special meeting like I just proposed. And we will have a discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: May I have a motion to adjourn.

ALD LEWIS: So move Mayor

ALD MALONE MARSHALL: I second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis and Seconded by Alderwoman Malone Marshall. All in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed? Okay we will set a special meeting with an item for Public Safety to have a discussion and we will get some information established. Thank you